THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The number of handicapped persons, all of whom are not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh as on 31-12-92 was 42591.

(b) The number of handicapped persons placed in jobs by the employment exchanges in Andhra Pradesh during 1991 and 1992 was 235 and 295 respectively.

(c) and (d) Statistics regarding vacancies filled up against the reserved quota is not available. However, a Special Employment Exchange at Hyderabad has been functioning to cater to the needs of the handicapped and assist them in getting suitable employment. Special Cells for the handicapped have also been opened at Employment Exchanges at Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. Three Special Recruitment Drives have been conducted to fill up the backlog of Group 'C' & 'D' vacancies reserved for handicapped in respect of Central Ministries, Central Public Sector Undertakings, and Banks, etc.

Harassment of Indian Labour in Kuwait

2500. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATARAMAN :
SHRI J. S. RAJU :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the plight and harassment of Indian Labour in Kuwait;

(b) if so, what measures Government have taken to put a halt to the harassment of the Labour Community;

(c) whether it is a fact that the women folk who are taken for household work are raped in large number and deported;

(d) what is the total number of women folk who went to Kuwait between 1991 to January 1993 for domestic labour and how many have been back to India after much harassment and ignominy;

(e) whether Government registered their protest on behalf of these poor labour women; and

(f) if so, what concrete action has been taken by Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The Indian Mission in Kuwait from time to time receive complaints of maltreatment, under-payment, substitution of contracts, unsatisfactory living and working conditions etc., though the number of complaints is not large. Whenever approached, the Missions render every possible assistance to the aggrieved workers and contact sponsors for redressal of their grievances. In many cases, the Missions provide shelter to the maids before they can find any other appointment. If destitute, the Missions also repatriate them to India at, Government's expense.

(d) No precise information with regard to the women folk who went to Kuwait from January 1991 to January 1993 is available. The number of Indian women folk working in Kuwait may be assumed to be approximately 35,000.

(e) and (f) The Government is conscious of the need to look after the welfare of Indians working in Kuwait. Bilateral consultations are held from time to time and the welfare of Indian labour women is also discussed through such meetings.

Central Scheme for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labour

2501. DR. SANJAYA SINH : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Centrally sponsored scheme for the rehabilitation of bonded labour was launched with effect from 30-5-1978; and

(b) if so, the total number of labourers released from bondage so far under the Scheme alongwith the percentage of SC & ST amongst them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Scheme provides for Central Assistance to State Governments on matching basis for rehabilitation of bonded labour. According to the latest reports received from the State Governments, the total number of bonded labourers identified and freed as on 31-3-93 was 2,51,424. Separate statistics for the Bonded Labourers belonging to SC/ST category is not maintained.

Provision of PF Slips to Subscribers

2502. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY :
SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED SAQHY :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is mandatory to provide PF

slips stating the balance against each subscriber;

(b) whether it is also a fact that seldom do the management provide such slips to the subscribers;

(c) what is the number of complaints received to this effect by Government from unions, subscribing members and Members of Parliament, year-wise, during the last three years;

(d) what is the number of public sector undertakings among those who violated this provision;

(e) the number of exempted organisations among them;

(f) the number of cases where PF authorities initiated penal action;

(g) what steps have been taken to discipline such defaulters in future; and

(h) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to revamp the Provident Fund Scheme to make it more meaningful?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The segregated information about the number of such complaints is not maintained.

(d) and (e) 23 public sector units, out of 82 exempted establishments are having backlog in issue of account slips.

(f) Nil.

(g) The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' Provident Fund, has set up a Committee to look into the functioning of the exempted establishments.

(h) No, Sir.

Job Seekers on Live Register

2503. SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:
SMT. MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that annual report 1990-91 of Ministry of Labour indicates number of job seekers on the live register at the end of the 7th Plan at 34.63 million;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question 50 dated 26th July, 1993 indicates unemployment based on "a weekly status" around 23 million on 1st April, 1992;

(c) if so, whether there is any discrepancy in above statements;

(d) whether it is also a fact that educated unemployed are the largest component in total unemployment, if so, what is the correlated percentage of educated unemployed;

(e) whether it is also a fact that due to lack of vocational training at post-basic level and higher secondary levels being extremely inadequate, educated unemployment is increasing; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c) The job seekers registered (numbering 34.63 million at the end of the Seventh Plan) with the Employment Exchanges in the country are not necessarily unemployed and registrations being voluntary, not all unemployed persons need register themselves with the Employment Exchanges. The estimates of unemployment given in the Plan Document is 23 million (17 million open unemployment and 6 million severe under-employment) as on 1st April, 1992, is based on unemployment rates worked out by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) during 43rd round.

(d) to (f) The educated constitutes about 40% of the unemployed as per the usual Principal Status based on 43rd round of NSSO. The employment strategy envisaged in the Eighth Plan is expected to generate 42.5 million additional employment opportunities during the period 1992-97 and a continuation of this strategy during the Ninth Plan is expected to generate 47.5 million additional employment opportunities during the period 1997-2002. The entire backlog of open unemployment and a sizeable part of severe unemployment is expected to be wiped out by 2002 A.D.

Achievement of Targetted Plan Investment by States

2504. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have defaulted in achieving the targetted plan investment for 1992-93;